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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-44 and 46-67. Applicant canceled claim 45 in a previous communication. At the request of the Examiner, Applicant filed a Supplemental Response on November 8, 2005, which included certain amendments discussed by Applicant's representative and the Examiner. As noted below, the Examiner has also requested the present Supplemental Response in order to enter additional amendments that clarify the claimed subject matter. Particularly, by the present Supplemental Response, Applicant amends claims 1, 15, 25, 32, 41-44, and 50 to further clarify the claimed subject matter. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-44 and 46-67 will remain pending in the present patent application. Applicant respectfully asserts that all of the pending claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for contacting Applicant's representative to expedite prosecution of the present application and for his participation in a telephonic interview with the undersigned representative on December 12, 2005. In this interview, the claims of the present patent application were generally discussed. Notably, during the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner reached an agreement on amendments to claims 1, 15, 25, 41, and 50 that more particularly point out and distinctly claim certain subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. By the present Response, claims 1, 15, 25, 41, and 50 are amended in the agreed upon manner. Further, by the present Response, Applicant has also amended claims 32 and 42-44 to avoid potential informalities resulting from prior and current amendments. In view of the previous remarks made in the Response filed October 11, 2005, the interview of October 25, 2005, the amendments submitted on November 8, 2005, the interview of December 12, 2005, and the present amendments, claims 1-44 and 46-67 are believed allowable over the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. For these reasons, Applicant

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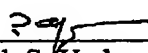
respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 14, 2005


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